

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 201757Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3838

S E C R E T LISBON 4752

EXDIS

REQUEST DEPT PASS TO APPROPRIATE DOD ACTIVITIES

EO 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, PO

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR M-16S

REF: USDAO LISBON IR 6-879-0409-75, 190745Z AUG 75

1. DATT HAS RECIEVED REQUEST FOR SIX M-16S FROM PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE. AIR FORCE NEEDS M-16S TO ARM SECURITY PERSONNEL GUARDING TOP AIR FORCE LEADERSHIP AND OFFICERS FROM ANTUNES GROUP INCLUDING ANTUNES HIMSELF, CANTO E CASTRO, VASCO LOURENCO, AND SOUSA E CASTRO. AIR FORCE SAYS THEY NEED LIGHTWEIGHT SMALL WEAPON WITH FIRE POWER ADEQUATE TO PROTECT THESE OFFICERS FROM DETERMINED ASSAULT.
2. SPECIFIC REQUEST IS FOR SIX M-16S, 6,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION, 30 MAGAZINES, AND ASSOCIATED MAINTENANCE KITS.
3. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE I HAVE PREVIOUSLY INSTRUCTED DATT TO REFUSE REQUESTS FOR WEAPONS, SINCE THESE INEVITABLY COME FROM COUP-ORIENTED GROUPS WHICH HAVE DONE LITTLE PLANNING AND HAVE NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS. THE ABOVE REQUEST, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO FALL INTO A DIFFERENT CATEGORY.
4. DATT IS CONFIDENT HE CAN OBTAIN AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR THESE WEAPONS FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE. IF SO THEY COULD BE PROVIDED OVERTLY UNDER OUR ONGOING MAAG PROGRAM,

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THUS AVOIDING ANY POTENTIAL CRITICISM. THE PROBLEMS ARE THE

LAPSING OF 1975 MAAG MATERIEL FUNDS, LIMITATIONS OF THE
CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND THE ARMS EMBARGO.

5. IN MY JUDGMENT PROVISION OF THESE WEAPONS WOULD BE POLITICALLY
USEFUL. IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE TANGIBLE AMERICAN INTEREST IN
MODERATE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE MOST MODERATE OF THE THREE SERVICES.
IT WOULD PROVIDE A HINT THAT WE MEAN BUSINESS IN PORTUGAL WITHOUT
OPENING US UP TO CHARGES OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
FINALLY IT IS CLEARLY IN OUR INTEREST TO SEE THAT PROTECTION IS
PROVIDED TO THE ANTUNES GROUP. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE PCP IS WELL
ARMED AND COULD BECOME DESPERATE IF THE TIDE CONTINUES TO TURN
AGAINST THEM.

6. IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE ABOVE AIMS SPEED IS CRITICAL. REQUEST
DEPARTMENT WORK WITH DOD TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD MAKE
THESE WEAPONS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE THROUGH NORMAL MAAG CHANNELS.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DOD ACTIVITIES.

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NNN

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